

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **POLICY COMMITTEE**

3
4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning
5 Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held April 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in
6 Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las
7 Cruces, New Mexico.

8
9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla) (arrived 1:14)
10 Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
11 Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)
12 Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
13 Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC)
14 Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)
15 Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC) (departed 1:54)
16 Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC) (arrived 1:15)

17
18 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)

19
20 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO staff)
21 Michael McAdams (MPO staff)
22 Dominic Loya (MPO Staff)

23
24 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
25 Harold Love (NMDOT)
26 Jess Waller
27 Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

28
29 **1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:00 PM)**

30
31 Flores: Okay so it's 1:00 now and so I'm going to call this meeting to order and
32 we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

33
34 ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

35
36 **2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**

37
38 Flores: Okay so does any Committee Member have any known or perceived
39 conflict of interest with any item on the agenda? If so that Committee
40 Member may recuse themselves from voting on a specific matter or if they
41 feel that they can be impartial we will put their participation up to a vote by
42 the rest of the committee. No one.

43
44 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1 Flores: We'll move on to the next one, public comment. Is there anybody in the
2 public that would like to make any comments? Okay not seeing anybody
3 coming up.
4

5 **4. CONSENT AGENDA ***
6

7 Flores: We'll move to the consent agenda and I remember making a note that on
8 page 6, I guess I should ask for a motion first.
9

10 Eakman: I would move the acceptance of the minutes as distributed.
11

12 Pedroza: Second.
13

14 Flores: I just have one issue and that was on, I don't remember if it was 6-7 or 7-
15 8. Yes on 6-7 of the minutes, I think Councillor Eakman was the one that
16 said, it's line 24 where I say, "Actually I just wanted to ask on the actual
17 sheet that you handed out it says from Valley to Hickory?" I think that was
18 really Councillor ... that was not me so just if we can make that, cut my
19 name out and keep that as his dialogue. Anybody have a problem with
20 changing that? Okay. Anyone else have any issues with the minutes?
21 Okay seeing none we'll just by a verbal vote, everybody in favor of passing
22 the consent agenda.
23

24 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
25

26 Flores: Okay any nays? Seeing none we'll move on to the next one.
27

28 **5. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
29

30 **5.1 * February 8, 2017**
31

32 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA
33

34 **6. ACTION ITEMS**
35

36 **6.1 Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory**
37 **Committee**
38

39 Flores: Okay action items, 6.1: Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian
40 Facilities Advisory Committee.
41

42 Murphy: Thank you Madam Chair. Our latest appointment to the Bicycle and
43 Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee, Mr. Len Paulozzi, had to resign
44 from the Committee, he was going to be unable to honor the time
45 commitment. So MPO staff contacted the previous applicants and we also
46 made an open call, posted on our website, e-mailed through the master

1 mailing list, released through the County and the City PIOs. Ultimately
2 two of the former applicants had indicated interest. We didn't receive any
3 other applications besides those two so we have today to present to you
4 to choose between Mr. John Gagne and Mr. Jess Waller. And Mr. Waller
5 is present in the audience if anybody has questions of him. If not we can
6 pass out the ballots and you may select the next Representative to the
7 BPAC.
8
9 Flores: Would Mr. Waller like to make any comments?
10
11 Waller: Do you have ...
12
13 Flores: We have your letter of interest.
14
15 Waller: Yeah. Good afternoon. You have my e-mail so if you, does anybody
16 have any questions for me?
17
18 Flores: Anyone?
19
20 Waller: Okay.
21
22 Flores: Okay then.
23
24 Waller: Okay. Thank you.
25
26 Flores: All right.
27
28 Eakman: Point of order Madam Chair.
29
30 Flores: Yes.
31
32 Eakman: I wonder if we can have these type of ballots at an open meeting. I
33 wonder if we should not just have a voice vote on this so the public knows
34 how each of us are voting.
35
36 Flores: Does anybody else have any other opinions?
37
38 Pedroza: Madam Chair.
39
40 Flores: Councillor Pedroza.
41
42 Pedroza: Thank you. I agree. It has been pointed out at City Council several times
43 that votes by Committees such as ours do need to be made publicly, so I
44 would agree with.
45
46 Flores: Okay. All right. Anyone else? Commissioner Solis.

1
2 Solis: I just have one comment. If we fill out the ballot, can we have someone
3 read it out?
4
5 Flores: Yeah.
6
7 Solis: That would be open, wouldn't it?
8
9 Flores: Well I think, yeah you could say how the person voted because it does ask
10 for a signature as well.
11
12 Solis: Yes.
13
14 Flores: Okay. Sure. And yeah we have our names on them so that's fine. We'll
15 do that. Okay. And hopefully people can read your signature. If it's really
16 scratch you can print it underneath.
17
18 Murphy: Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. If you take note each ballot
19 has your name on it so that'll become part of the public record and we are
20 asking for your signature.
21
22 Flores: Okay.
23
24 Murphy: As discussed the last time we had the BPAC appointment, this Committee
25 decided it needed to be known who everyone voted for.
26
27 Flores: Okay. Thank you. Did anybody want to have any discussion about this
28 beforehand, before they make their vote? Any comments, no? Okay.
29 Should've asked ahead of time.
30
31 Murphy: Madam Chair. We have a unanimous choice of Mr. Waller.
32
33 Flores: Okay. Thank you very much and congratulations and thank you for
34 serving.
35
36 Waller: Thank you for inviting me here. I appreciate vote of confidence.
37
38 **6.2 Appointment of MVMPO Representatives to the Regional Leadership**
39 **Consortium**
40
41 Flores: You want to explain the next or want me to, 6.2?
42
43 Murphy: I think we're ready for 6.2.
44
45 Flores: Do you want me to introduce that one or you want to do it?
46

1 Murphy: Sure.
2
3 Flores: Okay. So we have a representative from the Mesilla Valley MPO to the
4 Regional Leadership Consortium with Viva Dona Ana and that's been me.
5 We went ahead and redid our MOU with Viva Dona Ana. However it was
6 brought to my attention that we did not fill out the, basically picking our
7 point of contact and, of course that's going to be Tom Murphy and then
8 our Designated Representative and Designated Alternate. So I'll just, I've
9 been the Designated Representative but I'll leave it to everybody if you
10 want to have a change or vote for somebody else. I should warn you I've
11 also been on the Committee for basically getting ready for the next
12 meetings, I forget what, the Steering Committee on that. So I've just been
13 recently put on that, so we'll just, I suggest that for a Designated Alternate
14 that we just put MPO staff because that makes it more flexible. Generally
15 if I haven't been able to make it, usually because another member from
16 my town isn't able to go, I'll fill that position and then I ask Mr. Murphy to
17 attend and he's generally able to attend, but sometimes if he's in another
18 meeting we just put somebody else from staff. So does anybody have any
19 comments on this? Councillor Pedroza.
20
21 Pedroza: Thank you. I don't know if you need a nomination but I would be more
22 than happy to nominate Commissioner Flores.
23
24 Eakman: And I would second the nomination.
25
26 Flores: All right. Well thank you. So do we want to take a vote on that part for the
27 Representative?
28
29 Murphy: Okay. So this is, we have a motion and a second. Do we have any other
30 discussion? Okay. So a motion and a second for Trustee Flores to
31 continue as the Mesilla Valley MPO's Representative to the Regional
32 Leadership Consortium with MPO staff acting as the Alternate.
33 Commissioner Rawson.
34
35 Rawson: Yes.
36
37 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
38
39 Pedroza: Yes.
40
41 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
42
43 Doolittle: Yes.
44
45 Murphy: Commissioner Solis.
46

1 Solis: Yes.
2
3 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
4
5 Eakman: Yes.
6
7 Murphy: And Chair Flores.
8
9 Flores: Yes. Okay. And so does anybody have any objections for the second
10 designated Alternate, to just make that the MPO staff? Okay. I'm seeing
11 shaking of heads so let's go ahead and vote for that I guess, on a verbal.
12 Everyone in favor say "aye."
13

14 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
15

16 Flores: Anybody against? Seeing none. And then point of contact, I just think
17 Tom Murphy is the obvious person, I think.
18

19 Murphy: MPO staff is the acknowledged contact for anybody on the Policy
20 Committee.
21

22 Flores: Okay. All right. Thank you so much. Okay. We're done with that part.
23

24 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

25 **7.1 Committee Training**

26 Flores: So let's move on to discussion items, 7.1: Committee training.
27

28 Murphy: Okay. Michael McAdams is going to kind of give a refresher on our
29 website. We're approaching a year old of it. Some of you are new to the
30 Board, others probably would like to have a refresher so I'm going to turn
31 over the podium to him and he's going to run through all the pages and its
32 functionality.
33
34
35

36 McAdams: Thank you Tom and Madam Chairman. I think you'd all have access to
37 the internet too so maybe if you'd like to follow along with me. We are,
38 Tom is correct, we're very proud of our website. It didn't come overnight.
39 We developed it for about three or four months and I have to give a, tip of
40 the hat to my colleague, Andrew Wray, who really was very detail-oriented
41 and makes sure that everything was correct and it's a lot of work to work
42 with a webpage designer to get this type of stuff done, to also make sure
43 that it's user-friendly for everyone. So I hope you've had a chance to view
44 it but if you've not that's what I'm going to try to sort of lead you through a
45 maybe review and maybe hopefully see some things.

1 The MPO website is in the spirit of our MPO's Public Participation
2 Plan which is to have as much as possibly have on the website and also
3 to our principle, MPO's principle of transparency. Let's get some major
4 things and I'll get, if you look at, micro, my, down this, if you look at, first of
5 all if you look at the webpage you'll see it very plain, not a lot of busyness
6 and you'll see on top the headings, and if you notice you can mouse-
7 correct. You can go on each of the headings and they will subheadings,
8 so you see the meeting calendar, etc. and we'll go to that. But really if
9 you're looking, if you're a Policy Committee Member or a TAC or BPAC, or
10 even the public everything's right in front, right, you can see. And what
11 you'll probably want to be seeing is the meetings, right, when are the
12 meetings, where are the packets, etc. We do deliver them to each of you
13 personally but you may want to look at them online, etc. and also, I have
14 to look down to, so you can go right down to "Read Notes," see that, or
15 "Read More," and click on that. And you see right there for the month of
16 April you'll see all the Committees for the MPO, right. So you can go right
17 to the MPO site for today and you click on it and you'll see the packet then
18 you'd, right there. They're in .pdf format and so available for everybody.

19 If you'd like to also, let me go back a little bit further you can review
20 any kind of committee whether it's BPAC or the TAC to see what other
21 further action was taken, all right. The other thing is in keeping with
22 transparencies, all the documents we have, we post them and so again
23 real easy, hopefully easy just to read more and you see all the core
24 documents. So for example if you also want to look at past minutes, right,
25 you can go to "MPO Core Documents" and let's seen now, I just go
26 through more stuff but you can see all, any kind of documents we used,
27 MOUs, the TIPs, the traffic flow maps, (*inaudible*) and performance and
28 other documents too, including my favorite the Short-Range Transit Plan,
29 and other projects we've done in the past like the University Avenue
30 project and the Missouri Avenue project. And this here, everything we can
31 possibly put on there we will and we're not limited to size and that's one of
32 the things, and especially because it's our own website we can easily post
33 things as soon as we get them almost. It's just a matter of mechanics and
34 so we could easily post things as well.

35 And well as a sort of side comment, if you have any comments, you
36 see things you want corrected or things that are not usable to you, please
37 let us know because we can get them done fairly easily. If they're really
38 difficult we do have the website designers on call, on retainership and we
39 can get some stuff like that done. So we're always willing to, of course to
40 look at corrections or advice or comments.

41 Let's me see, what's the other? So also you can look at different
42 things for resources if you'd like. We have different websites. Let's so I
43 have to look at, so we'll look at our favorite site and that would be New
44 Mexico DOT and again you can look up anything you would like to know
45 about NMDOT, look at plans they have and different items for that too. So
46 that applies. We have also RoadRUNNER, we have SCRTD, we have

1 many other websites we think that are pertinent to the MPO and the
2 member agencies with affiliates: Mesilla, the County of Dona Ana, and
3 the City of Las Cruces. Go back, yeah that's a neat feature, okay.

4 And then sort of to follow up and sort of end, if really, well let's let
5 me backtrack a little bit, not really backtrack, the real purpose of this
6 website is increasing transparency. We, all the public can see what we
7 have. We do other things because we realize that the public doesn't have
8 access often to internet so this is, but this is one way of making what we
9 do public and if there's any questions. But if, and I direct this to people
10 too, if they ask me about getting subscribed to our newsletters and stuff, I
11 just put them, I say, "Please go to 'About Us' and scroll down a little bit,"
12 and then they can actually view the bottom of the page. You can see
13 where it says a little, I can't get it now back in, I'll try, never try to do two
14 things at once. Okay, maybe. At the bottom there's a little envelope or a
15 little space where you can actually put your e-mail and okay, there it is.
16 Thank you. My mouse wasn't working. So instead of collecting e-mails
17 from people we can just say, "Just go to our website, put your e-mail in,"
18 and I think we have close to 40 people that have subscribed to our e-mail.
19 It's a wide variety. Most people don't come but if they do, they know
20 what's happening. So a lot of people I think read the minutes and they
21 know about things and they know that they are more than welcome to
22 come to our meetings. I always try to say, "Please come to our meetings,"
23 and they may say, "We're not receiving." I said, "Just go to our website.
24 You'll subscribe there and get everything. You'll get tired of it sometimes
25 what we do." I mean not tired, but tired of our notifications, yeah.
26 Because we try to really put a lot of notification. But what we're doing as a
27 website also, if there's anything pertinent related to things going on in the
28 area, so we posted when the hearings for the Three Crosses was going,
29 or the informational meetings we published that. Roadrunner, we
30 published, things that are relevant to people interested in the MPO. So we
31 hope that this is a, we think this is a chief vehicle for information about the
32 MPO. And I guess this ends my presentation. Are there any questions
33 about the website? Did I go through it too rapidly?

34
35 Flores: And so ...

36
37 McAdams: One little footnote too is that this is also mobile-ready. In fact I've tested
38 that. We made sure when we did the website you could visit on your
39 mobile. It does very nicely and the .pdfs come up really nicely too on your
40 mobile or your tablet. So this is something, if you're on the go and you're
41 interested about learning about more about the MPO or you're looking at
42 the minutes you can easily get it on the road as well, or the coffee shop.

43
44 Flores: Okay. Thank you. Councillor Eakman.

45

1 Eakman: A helpful suggestion on the "About Us" page, there was a link to the 2016
2 calendar of the MPO. I wonder if that couldn't be updated to 2017.
3
4 McAdams: Yes. Okay. We'll look at that for sure.
5
6 Eakman: Thank you.
7
8 Flores: Anyone else? Mr. Doolittle.
9
10 Doolittle: Thank you. I just wanted to say you know I carry my tablet around
11 everywhere. I've got to where I don't have paper. I go to that website. I
12 actually have it saved as a favorite and I go to it periodically and I'll say it's
13 pretty easy to use, you know downloading the agenda and the packet so
14 that I can carry it around on this as opposed to paper. It's a fairly user-
15 friendly site and I compliment you all on your putting that site together. It's
16 very well done.
17
18 Flores: Okay thank you. Anyone else? No. Okay. So thank you for that
19 presentation. And then before we get too much further I would like to
20 recognize that Mayor Barraza came in during that presentation at the
21 beginning and Councillor Gill Sorg as well. So just so we can keep track
22 of the minutes. And moving on to 7.2, New Mexico DOT update ...
23
24 Murphy: Madam Chair.
25
26 Flores: Do you have a second presentation? I'm sorry.
27
28 Murphy: I had a second presentation. I apologize for all the screen time today.
29 Last week Mr. Doolittle, Ms. Herrera, and myself attended a training up in
30 Albuquerque and I guess if the buzzing goes on too long we may cancel
31 this, I'll send you the link. But we attended a training on setting up
32 performance targets. That's something that FHWA's going to require state
33 DOTs and MPOs to get accomplished this calendar year. So this
34 presentation kind of gives an overview of the safety target setting process
35 and I found it informational. I hope all of you do as well.
36
37 VIDEO PRESENTED - <https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/p25c3zrj21b>
38
39 Murphy: Technical difficulties. We'll see if it's trying to reload. I'll go ahead and
40 give my closing on this training. The State is planning on having its
41 NHTSA goal-setting meeting in May up in Albuquerque. They've invited
42 the MPO staffs from around the state to participate and then we'll bring
43 that back to you and kind of give an evaluation. At this point my feeling is
44 the overall number of fatalities and injuries that we see are relatively low
45 ... not start from the beginning, whereas the variability from year to year
46 would be great. So from our initial looking at the crash data, my inkling

1 would be that this MPO would choose to support the State targets since ...
2 she almost wanted to start talking again, and then of course we'll update
3 when we update our MTP, beginning that process next year. We'll be
4 implementing the safety targets into our goals. I can't tell if ...
5

6 VIDEO RESUMED.
7

8 Murphy: I think I was able to get my comments in during the pause. If you have
9 any questions ...
10

11 Flores: Just I have the same concern and that is we are such a small state and
12 such a rural state, and our area's very rural. I just worry about even
13 though it's a five-year average, one bus crash could really make us look
14 you know bad and I just, I cannot, I feel like people in an urban area have
15 set these rules with little understanding of rural America. And I'm kind of
16 frustrated about that. I can see that having a negative outcome for us, you
17 know we're just one accident, we're very few accidents away from having
18 a negative evaluation and I don't think that's fair. And I can see it as a
19 very real possibility. So I have that concern. Hate to be negative but I'm
20 sorry, that's the first thing I think of when I see this, I kind of, and the other
21 thing that concerns me is that they're going to be looking at roads that we
22 own and don't own, so I can see basically trying to ameliorate safety
23 issues in roads that you own. But when you're going to be evaluated on
24 roads that you don't even own, that you have no control over, I have
25 concerns about that. So I'm just putting it out there. Otherwise, I mean I
26 do think this is a better way, you know look at what accidents are out there
27 and to try to focus and it does make sense, but I just have a few issues
28 there. Anyone else want to make any comments? Councillor Eakman.
29

30 Eakman: Yes. I think Councillor Pedroza had her hand up before mine so I'll yield
31 to her and then I'll have something. Okay.
32

33 Flores: Okay. Councillor Pedroza.
34

35 Pedroza: Thank you. It's just very short. I agree with Councillor Flores that some of
36 this might not be very fair to more rural communities as opposed to the
37 urban ones where generally you own and control the roads in your area.
38 But my question was how new is all of this? Is it just brand new? Is there
39 nothing that we can look to from before that would give us some idea of
40 what our State, how our State was ranked and evaluated before? Or is
41 this just all totally new?
42

43 Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Pedroza. This is new and MAP-21 was the first
44 time that Congress came down with the idea of national goals and
45 performance measures, and then using the actual performance to, judge
46 is probably a strong word, but we use it to focus our investment strategies.

1 I think one, we do have crash data that goes back a long time and when
2 we meet with the State and the other MPOs and the emergency medical
3 community to establish these safety measures or the targets, I think a lot
4 of those concerns, you know I think a lot of them they feel that rural
5 perspective more acutely than we do living here. So I think that's certainly
6 going to be tempered into the goals. I think additionally it's important to
7 note that what this does affect is the penalty for not making your targets is
8 that you then lose flexibility on where you can spend your HSIP money.
9 Currently the State of New Mexico spends all of its HSIP money on safety
10 projects anyway so the penalty would be they'd be required to do what
11 they're doing anyway. And I think that's been intentional on Congress' and
12 FHWA's part. They want to get the system in place, see how it works over
13 the first couple courses of years, see what kind of adjustments need to be
14 made to it. So everybody I believe understands that this is something
15 we're doing new and that adjustments will have to be made, and so
16 there's, and at least initially nothing draconian is going to occur.
17

18 Pedroza: I have one more question. I remember some time ago reading a book
19 about the failure of a bridge and the tragedy that that caused, and I can't
20 remember what state it was in, but very recently we had another failure of
21 a bridge. And I don't see in any of these measures, maybe they are there
22 but they're just kind of hidden, what the status of the bridge itself, is that
23 going to be measured? Or is it just you know like driver inattention or
24 something like that? Because I think given where our country's at and the
25 age of our highways, it's a very important part. How many of our bridges
26 are going to fail before we pay attention to them? Thank you.
27

28 Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Pedroza. And in response to that, transportation
29 asset management is one of the goal areas and this is one of the ones
30 that, the next measures and targets to come out later, next. I believe
31 safety was the first one and I think probably the next one we will see will
32 be in the areas of asset management where things such as the bridge
33 concern and other areas that you raise will be addressed.
34

35 Pedroza: Thank you.

37 Flores: Any more comments or questions? I'm sorry, Councillor Eakman.
38

39 Eakman: Well thank you. I appreciated the presentation very much. My question is
40 what I have not heard are linkages to, like the people who license the
41 operators on the road and whether or not they're a part of this goal-setting
42 and then what does that do to their processes, and then law enforcement
43 itself which is responsible for traffic control and operator behavior and
44 things of that nature. I didn't hear them being a part of this planning
45 process either. And so I wonder, is that something that's going to be

1 looked at in the future or is it a part of it and it just wasn't reflected in this
2 video?

3
4 Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. Yes Law enforcement is involved,
5 particularly in setting the NHTSA HSP goals. You know at the training that
6 we were at last week there were some law enforcement, I sat next to
7 somebody in Tribal Law Enforcement actually, but they are typically part of
8 those safety goal-settings. And she went through the four E's:
9 Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Response, I forget the fourth one
10 but absolutely yes. They are included.

11
12 Eakman: So a follow-up question is what about operator error, which is in my way a
13 defining factor over engineering, operator error and licensing?

14
15 Murphy: Those are usually addressed through education campaigns, of which a lot
16 of the safety money goes to pay: Public service announcements to try to
17 make the public aware of behaviors that they tend to have that are
18 dangerous and they have these educational bits that work towards
19 correcting those behaviors.

20
21 Flores: I believe education was the fourth E, by the way.

22
23 Murphy: Thank you.

24
25 Flores: Anyone else? Well thank you I think you allayed some of my fears
26 anyway.

27 28 **7.2 NMDOT update**

29 30 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

31
32 Flores: And okay, so we'll move along to Committee and staff comments, and
33 before I forget I got a memo basically saying that the City Councillors are
34 going to be at a meeting set for our next meeting which is May 10th. So I
35 had a request to move our meeting to 1:30 so that hopefully we'll be able
36 to have a quorum at our next meeting. So is there a way that we can
37 change the time of our meeting? How do we do that?

38
39 Murphy: Madam Chair. We can do that. I think we can take care of that through
40 the normal advertisement of the meeting in the newspaper and notices on
41 the website.

42
43 Flores: Okay. All right. Do I have any objection? I mean it's obvious we're going
44 to have to do that because we need it for the quorum. So okay. Any other
45 comments from the Committee? Mr. Doolittle.

1 Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I don't know if you intended to skip over my
2 DOT updates or not.

3
4 Flores: Oh, I'm sorry, okay. I'm sorry.

5
6 Doolittle: I'm just giving you a hard time.

7
8 Flores: DOT updates.

9
10 Doolittle: I actually have a lot of things to discuss if you'll allow me to go over a few
11 of our projects.

12 The Spitz/Three Crosses project actually started construction on
13 Monday. We'll continue to have public meetings, monthly public meetings
14 for those projects. I think currently they've got them scheduled for the last
15 Monday of each month. I am working with City staff to try to have some
16 additional outreach to the residential communities around that intersection.
17 But we are going to encourage them to participate in our regularly
18 scheduled public meetings as opposed to separate ones. But I'll continue
19 to give monthly updates on that project as we progress. It is scheduled for
20 about a year. It's a busy intersection. I'm going to avoid it at all costs and
21 am thankful I live south of town, not north of town. But AUI is building that
22 project for us. They're a contractor we've used quite frequently out of
23 Albuquerque and we look forward to working with them on this project.

24 The next one I've got to discuss is our US-70 pavement
25 preservation project so this is basically from Aguirre Springs to the Dona
26 Ana County line east of town. The contractor should finish paving today
27 and then we have our final seal coat which will take about two weeks. We
28 expect to have that project completed by the end of the month. Those of
29 you that haven't driven that way, that pavement was falling apart but now
30 basically all the way over to the district boundaries we have a pretty nice
31 roadway from town to that point.

32 Those are our only two current ongoing projects in the area. We
33 have a couple of them coming up that I wanted to share. We have the
34 US-70, the Picacho signal at 17th Street. That's where all the buses come
35 out of their lot and then basically get to Picacho and then go from there to
36 the different schools. We'll be putting a signal there. That project was bid
37 in January. We're expected to start as soon as school ends. Believe it or
38 not we actually coordinated so we're not doing it while school is in session.
39 RT Electric whose office is actually just right down the street on 17th
40 Street is the contractor for that one. They do really good work for us.
41 They do a lot of electrical work and I don't see any reason why we won't
42 have that project substantially complete and that signal operating before
43 school actually starts in August. So hopefully that'll be safer for those
44 buses coming in and out when the school starts next year.

45 The next one that we've got is another project on US-70 up at the
46 Organ Pass. Right now the bike route on US-70 kind of has a gap in it

1 over the pass just because it's really been unsafe. We have a lot of high-
2 speed traffic up there. So we're going to do some shoulder widening.
3 Right now that concrete wall barrier's pretty close to the roadway so we're
4 going to accommodate bicycle facilities over the pass. That project is
5 actually scheduled to bid next Friday and I would expect construction to
6 start sometime in August or September. But we have a few people who
7 commute from Las Cruces to White Sands or NASA for instance and this'll
8 give them a much safer route to travel as they go to work.

9 Valley Drive, that's one we're working with the City to incorporate
10 some of their requests from the Amador Proximo. Ultimately the goal is to
11 include some oversized drainage to incorporate some drainage issues the
12 City has in adjacent neighborhoods and as part of that we'll be doing a
13 road transfer to the City after it's complete. That project is scheduled for a
14 bid in May. I would expect construction to start some time in the winter.
15 And again I'll keep you updated on that project. I think that we're going to
16 try to do a presentation in May. I don't know if we were going to bring it to
17 the TPB or not but that may be something that we could do if that's the
18 wish of the Board, just a general discussion on what the typical section
19 would look like once we go to construction.

20 And then the last thing I wanted to give an update on is our chip
21 seal crew, which is our maintenance crew internally is actually in southern
22 Dona Ana County right now. They're moving their way to the north. It's
23 really not going to affect a lot of the City streets, only because we don't do
24 this process on really heavily traveled roadways. But it will affect some of
25 the roads in the Town of Mesilla. Dona Ana County for instance will have
26 a lot of our secondary roads in their areas chip sealed. But we'll continue
27 to issue public notices so that the public is aware of what those impacts
28 are going to be. We're trying to be real cognizant because it is our
29 secondary roads that we're doing, to be real cognizant of those people
30 that are traveling from those outside areas into town for work and the
31 school buses and those kinds of things, so public involvement has been
32 very important to us on that one. But you'll continue to see notices on
33 those as we move around.

34 With that, that's really all the projects we have in the area, those
35 that are coming up, and I'll stand for any questions the Board may have.

36
37 Flores: Does anybody have any questions for Mr. Doolittle? Seeing none.

38
39 Doolittle: Thank you.

40
41 Flores: Now we'll move back to comments. So any comments from ... okay. Any
42 comments from staff?

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44 Murphy: No.

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46 Flores: Okay.

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9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Flores: So we'll move to public comment. Seeing no one standing on that one.

10. ADJOURNMENT (2:07 PM)

Flores: We'll move to adjournment. Adjourned.



Chairperson